

MEETING SUMMARY
WATER QUALITY ADVISORY GROUP
February 12, 2001

Members Attending

William Anderson, agricultural community (14-19)
Vince Berg, business community (17-19)
John Buric, agricultural community (14-19)
Carter McCamy, business community, Chair (17-19)
Hend Galal-Gorchev, scientific/academic community (15-19)
Doug Holy, environmental community (7-7)
Robert Johnson, scientific/academic community (15-19)
Jeff Longworth, public-at-large (16-19)
Lynn Mayo, scientific/academic community (13-17)
Chris Namovicz, public-at-large (16-19)
Marshall Rea, agricultural community, Vice-chair (18-19)
Shobhana Sharma, business community (6-7)
Kraig Walslaben, environmental community (15-19)

Public Agency Reps

Dr. Mohammad Habibian, public agency, WSSC (18-18)
Cameron Wiegand, public agency, DEP (18-18)
Jeff Zyontz, public agency, M-NCPPC (15-18)

Members Absent

Diane S. Shea, public-at-large (13-18)
Paula Wang, environmental community (14-18)

Others Attending

Chris Choppin, EQR
Boyd Church, DEP
Diane M. Davis, DEP
Alan Hais, USEPA
Roger Perry, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Doug Redmond, M-NCPPC

Welcome & Discussion/Approval of Agenda & Previous Month's Summary

The Chair opened the meeting by adding two items to the agenda: 1) more items onto the membership component, and 2) a newly introduced resolution. As no other changes were made to the agenda, and no corrections were noted to the January 2001 summary, both were approved unanimously.

Green Buildings - Roger Perry, Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), showed slides and described in detail the newly designed and constructed CBF headquarters building in Annapolis. He described the Foundation's new building as very complex in its planning, design and construction, the fundamental premise involved low impact, minimal use of new resources, using renewable where possible. It is meant to serve as a model for those considering building in a 'green' friendly manner. Some highlights of the presentation include the following:

- Used the existing footprint of former church's site, no new land was used
- 33 acres of development rights were sold back to the state
- Used as many green features as possible
- Drilled and used 48 groundwater wells for geothermal heat source (each well 300 feet deep); groundwater supplies water at a steady 55 degrees so heating or cooling efforts are less severe
- Uses solar and radiant heat
- Employ completely passive solar system, and active solar for heating all water, both potable and non-potable

- Employs composting or mulching toilets requiring no water, with good aeration processes; result is using 90% less water than the average building
- Have rain barrels on the roof to save water and supply sprinklers, and grey water, such as for hand-washing
- Roof runoff goes into a biofilter and then into a nearby wetlands, or gets directed into a chlorinator or into mini-barrels, depending upon usage
- Lumber – used no formaldehyde, used post and beam with steel inside
- Consider it a completely open building on inside due to no or very few floor-to-ceiling walls, all open offices
- Inexpensive lunch arrangements are made so that staffers don't have to leave the premises to drive off campus to get lunch; utilize group lunches and shower facilities
- Flooring – uses cork (from linseed oil, flour and bamboo)
- Windows – open automatically based on indoor air quality, outdoor weather conditions and to achieve a balance.

He reported that the building received a platinum award from the Building Council for a "Green Building" category and CBF is glad to be able to show the community and nation that alternative ways are possible, viable, and affordable in the long term. It will pay for itself over time, by using 90% less water and electricity, and 2/3 less energy than typical new structures. He considers this a great long-term savings for the Bay.

Forest Preservation Task Force

The Forest Preservation Strategy, Task Force Report, October 2000." He gave a brief overview, stressing some of the following points:

- Task Force considers trees as a form of green infrastructure in the County, not simply an amenity;
- Urban tree canopy is very important by itself and should be given more value;
- Forests are generally considered more valuable, but the realization of the importance of urban tree canopy is growing and highlighted in the Strategy Report'
- Urban trees represent 50% of the tree cover in the County
- Tree loss, both urban and forest, has been consistent and steady over time
- Maintenance of urban trees is a big issue (guidelines recommend that street trees be maintained every 5 to 7 years, but the County's current budget only can provide for maintenance of street trees every 90 years);
- Many Task Force members represented different agencies or stakeholder perspectives and this resulted in a balanced final set of recommendations which was forwarded to the Executive and County Council.

Vince Berg handed out a resolution he had prepared to recommend that the County Executive and Council endorse the Forest Conservation Task Force recommendations and target valuable funds to the street tree program, and the Chair asked members to review it. Following a period of discussion, question and answer, and minor modifications on the resolution, it was voted unanimously to approve and adopt the resolution to get it before elected officials now involved in the budget development and approval process. Ms. Davis was charged with making the suggested wording changes to reflect the link between urban trees and water quality, and then forward it quickly to the appropriate officials. She agreed. The resolution **Actions** would be:

1. The Montgomery County Water Quality Advisory Group (WQAG) fully supports and endorses the Visions, Goals and Action Items contained within the October 2000, *Forest Preservation Strategy*, Task Force Report.
2. The WQAG recognizes that budget constraints may not allow for all of the Task Force Report Goals to be implemented at once. We recommend that the first priority for funding be given to the Urban Street Trees portion and related Action items in the Report. Within the Urban Street Trees Action items, funding for replacement trees (item #4) would be our highest recommendation, followed by funding to maintain all street trees in the County on a six year cycle (item #3).

Membership

The Chair reminded the Group that three members had terms which expired in May 2001, with two incumbents eligible to re-apply. Ms. Davis told the group that she would widely distribute the vacancy press release/flyer when sent to her from the Executive's Office. She asked that all members do the same to assist in the recruiting process.

The Chair asked each candidate to take a brief moment to explain why they are best suited for the position, and each did so. Mr. McCamy handed out blank ballots/cards upon which all members would vote between the two candidates who had been nominated: Mr. Berg and Ms. Sharma. Before voting, Mr. McCamy reiterated that the vote would place the winner of tonight's votes into the Vice Chair position until May 2001, at which time that person would assume the Chair position. Essentially, he described it as a preparation period towards moving into the Chairmanship role. In May of 2001, when Mr. McCamy's term ended, voting would occur again for a new Vice Chair. Ballots were put into an envelope and counted by a non-voting member representing a public agency, Mr. Zyontz, M-NCPPC. Based upon the vote count, Mr. Zyontz announced that Ms. Sharma would assume the Vice Chair role until May, and then the Chair.

New or Continued Business

The Chair passed around a second resolution to recognize and show appreciation for DEP staff support to the WQAG by the Coordinator, Ms. Davis. The resolution's author, Diane Shea (absent), could not answer additional questions which arose, so the Chair suggested he or the Vice Chair would move it forward.

Next Month's Agenda Topics

- Biological & physical stream monitoring in County & State
- Future water supply demands and use of the Potomac River source; related flow maintenance needs for biological resource support